

BED PANEL ASSEMBLY**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION****1. Field of the Invention**

5 The invention relates to a bed panel assembly, more particularly to a bed panel assembly that can be assembled and disassembled with relative ease.

2. Description of the Related Art

10 Referring to Figures 1 and 2, a conventional bed assembly 1 includes a main frame 2, and front and rear panel assemblies 3, 4 connected respectively to front and rear portions of the main frame 2.

The main frame 2 includes two opposite side bars 21, each of which has two link seats 22 connected respectively to opposite ends thereof. Each of the link
15 seats 22 has a pair of hook members 221.

With further reference to Figure 3, the front panel assembly 3 includes two front bedposts 31, and a front panel 32 disposed between the front bedposts 31. Each of the front bedposts 31 has a connecting seat 311 located
20 at a bottom part thereof for engagement with the hook members 221 of the link seat 22 of the adjacent side bar 21 so that the front bedposts 31 are secured stably on the main frame 2. Because the connections between the front bedposts 31 and the opposite sides of the front
25 panel 32 are the same, only the connection at one side of the front panel 32 will be described hereinbelow.

Referring to Figure 4, a plurality of pins 5 are first

disposed between the front bedpost 31 and the front panel 32, after which an adhesive is applied to adjoining surfaces of the front bedpost 31 and the front panel 32. The front bedpost 31 and the front panel 32 are thus
5 adhered together, thereby completing assembly of the front panel assembly 3.

Referring again to Figures 1 and 2, the rear panel assembly 4 includes two rear bedposts 41, and a rear panel 42 disposed between the rear bedposts 41. Each
10 of the rear bedposts 41 has a connecting seat (not shown) for engagement with the hook members 221 of the link seat 22 of the adjacent sidebar 21. Since the connections between the rear bedposts 41 and the rear panel 42 are substantially similar to those of the front bedposts
15 31 and the front panel 32, a detailed description of the same will be dispensed herewith for the sake of brevity.

From the aforementioned description of the conventional bed assembly 1, it is noted that although
20 the bedposts 31, 41 of the front and rear panel assemblies 3, 4 are connected respectively and stably to the front and rear panels 32, 42 through the pins 5 and the adhesive, a lot of time is wasted during assembly. Furthermore, the conventional bed assembly 1 is difficult to
25 disassemble. Most importantly, since assembly of the conventional bed assembly 1 is complicated and is seldom accomplished by consumers, the assembled main frame 2

and front and rear panel assemblies 3, 4 are bulky, thereby resulting in higher handling space requirements and higher delivery costs.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

5 Therefore, the object of the present invention is to provide a bed panel assembly that can be assembled and disassembled with relative ease.

 According to this invention, a bed panel assembly comprises a vertical bedpost, a bed panel, and a
10 retaining unit. The bed panel has a connecting end. The connecting end has a positioning piece projecting therefrom. The positioning piece has a neck portion connected to the connecting end, and a head portion opposite to the neck portion. The retaining unit is
15 mounted on the bedpost, and includes a base plate and a retainer secured to and placed in face-to-face contact with the base plate. The base plate has a retaining hole with a large hole section, a small hole section, and a first passage between the large and small hole sections.
20 The retainer has a pair of resilient arms confining a clamping hole substantially in alignment with the small hole section. The resilient arms respectively include connecting ends which are interconnected, and free ends opposite to the connecting ends. The free ends define
25 therebetween a second passage substantially in alignment with the first passage. The second passage is narrower than the first passage. The head portion

has a cross-section greater than that of the small hole section and smaller than that of the large hole section. The neck portion is movable between the large and small hole sections through the first passage. The clamping
5 hole receives the neck portion when the neck portion is disposed in the small hole section. The second passage has a normal size smaller than the cross-section of the neck portion to permit retention of the neck portion. The free ends are resiliently movable away from each
10 other to enlarge the second passage when the neck portion is forced to pass through the second passage.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Other features and advantages of the present invention will become apparent in the following detailed
15 description of the preferred embodiment with reference to the accompanying drawings, of which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a conventional bed assembly;

Figure 2 is a partly exploded perspective view of
20 the conventional bed assembly;

Figure 3 is a view taken along line III-III of Figure 1;

Figure 4 is a fragmentary schematic view of the conventional bed assembly, illustrating how a front
25 bedpost and a front bed panel are interconnected;

Figure 5 is a fragmentary partly exploded perspective view of the preferred embodiment of a bed panel assembly

according to the present invention;

Figure 6 is another fragmentary partly exploded perspective view of the preferred embodiment, viewed from another angle different from that in Figure 5;

5 Figure 7 is a fragmentary perspective view of the preferred embodiment in an assembled state;

Figure 8 is a fragmentary schematic view of the preferred embodiment, illustrating how a neck portion of a positioning piece is retained by a retainer; and

10 Figure 9 is a fragmentary assembled sectional view of the preferred embodiment.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

As shown in Figures 1 and 2, a conventional bed assembly 1 includes a bed panel assembly 3 or 4 provided at the front or rear side of a main frame 2. The present invention resides in a connection between a bed panel assembly of the above-mentioned type.

Referring to Figures 5 and 6, the preferred embodiment of a bed panel assembly according to the present invention is shown to comprise a vertical bedpost 6, a retaining unit 7, and a bed panel 8.

The vertical bedpost 6 has a post body 61 connected perpendicularly to a main frame (not shown) in a conventional manner, and an outer surface formed with a groove 62. The groove 62 has a groove bottom face 621. Three vertically aligned oval-shaped recesses 622 are formed in the groove bottom face 621. In this embodiment,

the groove 62 has a substantially rectangular cross-section.

With further reference to Figure 7, the retaining unit 7 is mounted fixedly within the groove 62, and includes an elongate base plate 71 screwed to the groove bottom face 621, and three retainers 72 (only one is shown in Figures 5 and 6) connected to and placed in face-to-face contact with the base plate 71. The base plate 71 has three vertically aligned retaining holes 711, and a pair of circular engaging holes 712 formed immediately below and independently of each retaining hole 711. Each of the retaining holes 711 has a large hole section 7111, a small hole section 7112 converging downwardly relative to the large hole section 7111, and a first passage 7113 (see Figures 5 and 6) between the large and small hole sections 7111, 7112.

The retainers 72 are made of a plastic material, such as nylon, and are received respectively in the recesses 622 in the groove bottom face 621. Each of the recesses 622 has a cross-section greater than that of the corresponding retaining hole 711 and greater than that of the corresponding retainer 72, as best illustrated in Figure 8. Each of the retainers 72 is formed as a one-piece plate, and is disposed between the groove bottom face 621 and the base plate 71. Each retainer 72 has a pair of resilient arms 722 confining a clamping hole 721 substantially in alignment with the small hole

section 7112 of the corresponding retaining hole 711, and a pair of studs 723 projecting outwardly from the retainer 72 and engaging respectively a corresponding pair of the engaging holes 712 in the base plate 71.

5 The resilient arms 722 of each retainer 72 respectively include connecting ends 7221 (see Figure 6) which are interconnected, and free ends 7222 (see Figure 6) opposite to the connecting ends 7221. The free ends 7222 define therebetween a second passage 7223 (see Figure
10 6) substantially in alignment with the first passage 7113 of the corresponding retaining hole 711. The second passage 7223 is narrower than the first passage 7113. Through engagement of the studs 723 with the engaging holes 712, the retainers 72 can be positioned stably and respectively in the recesses 622 in the post body
15 61 of the bedpost 6.

The bed panel 8 has a panel body 81 extending along a horizontal axis (L). The panel body 81 has a connecting end 82 received in the groove 62 in the post body 61
20 of the bedpost 6. Three vertically aligned positioning pieces 83 project from the connecting end 82. Each positioning piece 83 has a neck portion 831 connected to the connecting end 82, and a circular head portion 832 opposite to the neck portion 831. The head portion
25 832 of each positioning piece 83 has a cross-section greater than that of the small hole section 7112, but smaller than that of the large hole section 7111 of the

corresponding retaining hole 711 in the base plate 71. The neck portion 831 is substantially equal to the clamping hole 721 in the corresponding retainer 72 in size. The second passage 7223 has a normal size smaller
5 than the cross-section of the neck portion 831 so as to permit retention of the latter in the clamping hole 721.

After the head portion 832 of each positioning piece 83 is inserted into the corresponding large hole section
10 7111, the neck portion 831 is movable between the large and small hole sections 7111, 7112 through the first passage 7113, and is received in the clamping hole 721 when the neck portion 831 is disposed in the small hole section 7112. The free ends 7222 of the resilient arms
15 722 are resiliently movable away from each other to enlarge the second passage 7223 when the neck portion 831 of each positioning piece 83 is forced to pass through the corresponding second passage 7223. Through the resilient arms 722 of the retainers 72, the neck portions
20 831 of the positioning pieces 83 can be retained in or removed from the respective clamping holes 721 via the second passages 7223, as best shown in Figures 8 and 9. As such, the bedpost 6 and the bed panel 8 can be assembled and disassembled with relative ease. Thus,
25 the bedpost 6 and the bed panel 8 of the present invention can be packed individually, thereby reducing handling space requirements and minimizing delivery costs. Upon

delivery, the bed panel assembly of the present invention can be assembled and installed on the main frame (not shown) to form the bed assembly.

5 While the present invention has been described in connection with what is considered the most practical and preferred embodiment, it is understood that this invention is not limited to the disclosed embodiment but is intended to cover various arrangements included within the spirit and scope of the broadest
10 interpretation so as to encompass all such modifications and equivalent arrangements.